



STUDY GUIDE – April 19, 2020

Message Title: Loss of Connection
Teaching Pastor: Brian Hughes

This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.

OVERCOMER Loss of Connection..... 4/19/2020

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

In the movie *Castaway*, Tom Hanks, character name Chuck Noland, made friends with a washed-up Wilson volleyball. If you were in the same scenario, stranded on a deserted island, what inanimate object would you hope would wash up on the shore with which you could make friends?

Pray:

Dear Lord, help us to really internalize that life comes from having to live on your Word. Help us to rely on it for our very lives. We ask You to help us to grow from this crisis experience and to emerge more equipped for connection *because* of our isolation. Although we are isolated from others, we are never isolated from You, our greatest companion.

Get Started:

When Jesus was led into the wilderness, he reiterated words from the Bible back to the tempter.

Read Deuteronomy 31:6

Read John 16:32

What is one truth we can know from the two scriptures above, even if we feel isolated or alone (literally or figuratively)? How can we, like Jesus in the wilderness, be less moved by what we see and feel and stand more firmly on the Word of God?

Watch and Discuss video:

Pastor Brian talked about the temptation of Jesus, and how he resisted and overcame it utilizing specific tools. He related this to temptations people are currently facing and the seemingly less accountable environment we are currently in.

Are there any areas that you are willing to share that have tempted you in this time?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13

Read Romans 8:37-39

How do these scriptures answer the issue of temptation?

Steps to resist temptation:

- 1) Recognize those people and situations that give you trouble.
- 2) Run from anything you know is wrong.
- 3) Choose to do what is right.
- 4) Pray for God's help.
- 5) Seek friends who love God and can offer help when you are tempted.

We all face temptations everyday. Which one of these steps stands out the most to you at this time?

Has anyone ever had or considered having an accountability partner?

Reflect and Commit:

In isolated times, you may be tempted to think there is nothing you can do to reach others. The apostle Paul (who wrote about half of the new testament), however, did some of his best work while in prison! The books of Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon were all written from isolation, proving that even during such times, you can reach and serve others.

Read Ephesians 6:7

Read Ephesians 4:1-3

What are some examples of serving the way Paul teaches above that you have witnessed during the quarantine (either individually or community-wide)? What was the outcome?

“Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done.”

-C.S. Lewis

Pray:

Dear God, we thank You for.....(pause for 60 seconds for people to pray individually in silence then continue). We thank You for refining us and for reminding us that who we are is not only revealed in times of testing, but that it is forged in the wilderness as we find deeper relationship with You.